

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 SY-10 FBIE-00 USSS-00 RSR-01 /110 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9161

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN MX EGEN

SUBJ: AMB SCALI'S MEETING WITH FONMIN RABASA: CHARTER
OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES

1. AT FONMIN RABASA'S REQUEST, AMB SCALI (ACCOMPANIED BY AMB BENNETT AND MISOFF) MET WITH HIM AND MEXICAN PERMREP GARCIA-ROBLES AT UN HEADQUARTERS AUG 23.

2. FONMIN RABASA EXPRESSED DELIGHT WITH APPOINTMENT OF HIS "GOOD FRIEND HENRY KISSINGER" AND SAID HE HAD PERSONALLY TELEPHONED CONGRATULATIONS YESTERDAY. FONMIN IS GREATLY PLEASED OVER SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF SALINITY NEGOTIATIONS. HE REFERRED TO MR. BROWNELL AS "FINE NEGOTIATOR" BUT WENT ON TO GIVE KISSINGER CREDIT FOR REMOVING FINAL ROADBLOCKS AND SAID END RESULT DUE LATTER'S TIMELY INTERVENTION. HE SAID MAIN REASON FOR REQUESTING APPOINTMENT WITH AMB SCALI, HOWEVER, WAS TO ENLIST HIS SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF DRAFT CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES WHICH MEXICO PLANS TO SUBMIT TO FORTHCOMING UNGA.

3. FONMIN SAID THAT MEXICO CONCEIVES OF CHARTER AS "MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, COMMON SENSE DOCUMENT WHICH WILL BENEFIT ALL MANKIND". HE URGED STRONGLY THAT US BACK CHARTER AND ARGUED US HAS OPPORTUNITY TO "PICK UP THE BANNER AS A CHAMPION OF
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THIRD WORLD ASPIRATIONS". RABASA NOTED THAT PRES NIXON, IN

HIS FOREIGN POLICY MESSAGE THIS YEAR, HAD REAFFIRMED US INTEREST IN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH LA. RABASA SUGGESTED US SUPPORT OF CHARTER WOULD CONVINCE LA'S IN PARTICULAR THAT PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IS INDEED US POLICY.

4. FONMIN SAID THAT, "SPEAKING VERY FRANKLY", USG ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHARTER SO FAR "HAD NOT BEEN TOO COOPERATIVE", PARTICULARLY AT RECENT UNCTAD MEETING. HE SPECULATED THAT USG PROBABLY FEARED THAT CHARTER WOULD SPELL OUT "RIGHTS FOR THE UNDER-DEVELOPED AND DUTIES FOR THE DEVELOPED NATIONS". WHILE ADMITTING THAT SOME OF MEXICO'S "FRIENDS" WERE TAKING VERY RADICAL POSITIONS WITH REGARD TO CHARTER LANGUAGE (WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE TONED DOWN), HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT MEXICO INTERESTED IN A "BALANCED AND MODERATE DOCUMENT". RABASA URGED USG NOT TO ADOPT "PASSIVE ATTITUDE" TOWARDS CHARTER AT FORTHCOMING UNGA AND ASKED AMB SCALI TO TRANSMIT THIS AS "A REQUEST FROM MY PRESIDENT TO YOUR PRESIDENT." HE INSISTED THAT US HAS OPPORTUNITY HERE TO SEIZE LEADERSHIP ON ISSUE POPULAR TO ENTIRE THIRD WORLD AND TO MAKE ISSUE ITS OWN.

5. RABASA ADDED THAT MEXICO NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER TO RECOMMEND REFERRAL OF CHARTER ITEM TO SECOND (ECONOMIC) COMITE, SIXTH (LEGAL) OR AN AD HOC JOINT COMITE DRAWN FROM BOTH BODIES. (FYI: (MEXICO WHICH ALWAYS PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN LA GROUP, WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL INFLUENCE IN 28TH GA AS CHAIRMAN SIXTH COMITE. MEXICAN COOPERATION ON KOREAN ITEM ALSO DESIRABLE. END FYI) IN ANY CASE, MEXICO HOPED THAT UNGA'S CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER WOULD "DIMINISH AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT."

6. AMB SCALI SAID THAT, AS A RESULT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRES ECHEVARRIA AND FONMIN IN MEXICO LAST MARCH, HE HAD BECOME DEEPLY INTERESTED IN CHARTER AND HAD REPORTED FULLY TO THE PRESIDENT. USG CONSIDERS IT A NOVEL CONCEPT. BECAUSE OF THE CHARTER'S WORLD-WIDE RAMIFICATIONS, USG HAS SO FAR TAKEN A CAUTIOUS APPROACH IN ORDER TO EXAMINE IT CAREFULLY. THIS CAUTION SHOULD NOT BE MISTAKEN FOR NEGATIVISM. AMB SCALI CAUTIONED THAT MANY US CORPORATIONS ARE SOMEWHAT NERVOUS ABOUT THE CHARTER'S IMPLICATIONS AND WOULD PRESSURE USG IN ONE DIRECTION. NEVERTHELESS, USG WAS ALSO

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MOVED BY ITS DESIRE TO FIND SOLUTIONS FOR THE GREAT PROBLEMS OF POVERTY IN THE WORLD. THEREFORE, IF CHARTER CAN EMERGE AS A MODERATE DOCUMENT BY OBJECTIVE STANDARDS, WE WILL BE POSITIVE SINCE US "DOES NOT SIMPLY STAND ON STATUS QUO." AMB SCALI PROMISED TO RAISE FONMIN'S REQUEST IN WASHINGTON AT ONCE.

7. FONMIN RABASA CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD ATTEND UNGA PLENARY IN ORDER TO DELIVER A SPEECH DEVOTED MAINLY TO THE CHARTER.

8. COMMENT: WE ARE OF COURSE WELL AWARE OF POTENTIAL DANGER FOR US IN RABASA'S CHARTER, WHICH WILL BE MUCH DEBATED IN MONTHS AHEAD. CONCEPT, HOWEVER, IS ONE WHOSE HOUR IS NEAR IF IN FACT IT HAS NOT ALREADY COME. TO MAXIMIZE OUR PROSPECT FOR INFLUENCING CONTENT OF CHARTER, USUN BELIEVES WE MUST TAKE FORTHCOMING POSITION ON A MATTER ON WHICH ONE OF OUR CLOSEST NEIGHBORS PUTS SO MUCH IMPORTANCE AND IS SO DETERMINED. AN IMAGE OF RIGID NEGATIVISM IS NOT REPEAT NOT IN US INTEREST. POSITIVE POSTURE OF FLEXIBILITY TEMPERED BY PRAGMATIC CAUTION WILL SERVE US WELL ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, AND IS COMPATIBLE WITH OUR BROADER INTERESTS AT UN. SOME FORM OF CHARTER IS BOUND TO RESULT FROM CURRENT CONSULTATIONS, AND CONCEPT IS AS POPULAR AMONG UN ELECTORATE AS HOME AND MOTHER. IF BY CAREFUL NEGOTIATIONS WE CAN WORK OUT A SEAT NEXT TO THE DRIVER, WE SHOULD RIDE THIS BAND WAGON.

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